

DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD (DAB) I

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, May 5, 2008

6:30 p.m.

Atwater Community Center, 2755 E. 19th, Wichita, Kansas 67214

Members Present

Council Member Lavonta Williams
Treatha Brown-Foster
Gerald Domitrovic
James Thompson
Lori Lawrence
Janice Rich
Steve Roberts
Benjamin Stiff
Adam Thomsen
Tythan Miles

Guests

Gertrude V Caldwell, 1217 N Estelle
Janet Wilson, 1152 N Estelle
Mary Gamble, 1402 N Broadview
Beverly Domitrovic, 1219 GW Drive
Mike Barushok, 354 N Green
James Roseboro, 4518 Greenbriar
Glen Dey, 4515 Greenbriar
John Stevens, 3125 E Boston
Anthony Suber, 1450 N Spruce
Leon Tindale, 612 N Poplar
Patricia Fields, 1910 E 22nd
Mary J Parnell, 1355 N Chautauqua
John Summer, 3003 E 13th St
Paul Ferguson, 5940 E Central
Del Smith, 1526 Gentry
Vivien ThiushullFord, 1526 Fairmount
Jerry Lively, 1358 N Crestway
Johnette Allen, 1401 N Belmont
Margaret Hyden, 206 N Green
Marcy Walke, 1402 N Fountain
Oat Baldwin, 1947 N Spruce

City of Wichita Staff Present

LaShonda Porter, Neighborhood Assistant
Fire Marshal Ed Bricknell, Wichita Fire Department
Gary Janzen, Public Works
Carl Haas, Public Works

Order of Business

Call to Order

Council Member Williams called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. and welcomed the guests.

Approval of Minutes

Roberts (Thomsen) made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion carried **9:0**

Approval of Agenda

Roberts (Thomsen) made a motion to approve the agenda as submitted. Motion carried **9:0**

CM Williams thanked everyone for coming and asked that if anyone chose to speak that they state their name and address for the record.

Public Agenda

1. Agenda Items

No items submitted.

2. Off Agenda Items

No items submitted.

Staff Report

1. Police Report

Officer Larry Carlson, 21 Beat advised that the larcenies in both 1200 & 1300 blocks of East Douglas have went up. There were 36 cases in January and 48 in February; however, they did decrease to 20 in March. **Officer Carlson** attributes this reduction to special assignments were conducted and one of the perpetrators were caught. This individual has been in custody since February 20th thus when March numbers were reported they were down by half.

Officer Carlson also informed the community that a crime prevention survey is being conducted with the hopes to address safety concerns. **Officer Carlson** noted that River Festival starts next week and that citizens will begin to see new uniforms for the bike patrol. The uniforms are more professional and have bright strips/reflectors to identify the officers.

Brown-Foster wanted to know how WPD was going to assist in keeping the streets safe now that we are in prom season. **Officer Carlson** advised that each bureau gets funding toward a program called JUDGE. This program targets underage drinking and tries to proactively address those issues. Additionally, there are efforts made by each bureau to educate, divert, and prevent incidents occurring during this time of year.

CM Williams wanted to know if each district have bike officers? **Officer Carlson** advised that the WPD has approximately 150-200 Officers who are bike certified and each bureau has 10 bikes. He noted that bike patrols availability also depends on the event, depend on the time, staffing needs and availability.

CM Williams also wanted to know if Neighborhood Associations could request mounted units. **Officer Carlson** advised that yes that was an option, but again it is based on availability. He also noted Patrol North had more officers available for mounted patrol and that Sgt. Brower from Patrol North heads up the team.

Thompson wanted to know who do you call get a mounted unit to attend your event. **Officer Carlson** advised that they should contact Sgt. Brower at 688-9500 or LaShonda Porter at Atwater.

Officer Shek Weber, Beat 44 provided an update on the Beat 44 survey noting that they have not finished compiling the information but hope to be finished by the end of the summer. He also noted that the beat has had some drive by shootings and gang activity has increased. **Officer Weber** also noted that a special assignment was conducted at Chisolm Park and seven people were arrested for moral violations.

CM Williams wanted to know what citizens should do to feel safe at Chisolm Park. **Officer Weber** advised that many people feel safe and that they see a number of people utilizing the park for recreation. He also noted that Police presence would also allow citizens to feel safe as well.

Thomsen wanted to know if citizens should report suspicious activity. **Officer Weber** stated most definitely.

Roberts wanted to know what end of the park was the activity occurring. **Officer Weber**

responded on the west end where you enter off Oliver.

Billy Lively, 1401 N Belmont, wanted to know what happens if people are making false calls to 911. **Officer Weber** advised that it is against the law to making a false call to 911.

Officer Nienstadt, advised that larcenies up all over the city. He noted that 20% of the larcenies are due to auto thefts. These incidents were due to valuable items being left on seats and vehicles left unlocked. **Officer Nienstadt** noted that they have made a few arrest and that most of the thefts are pretty random.

Officer Nienstadt also noted that burglaries are up on 31, 32, and 38 beat. The burglaries are up respectively 40%, 50% and 52%. He noted that they were working hard to combat this issue and they are working on special assignments in the area.

Officer Nienstadt reported that he is working with OCI on blight issues and some illegal bumping that is occurring in the community. They are currently working to catch unlicensed haulers and notes that the community should be aware of these types of services being offered in the community.

CM Williams noted that she would like for all Officers to mention this information at the Neighborhood meetings they attend. Continue to educate the community on this issue.

Anthony Suber, 1950 N. Spruce wanted to know who covers the Family Dollar at 13th & Grove, as there is some illegal dumping occurring at this property.

Porter advised that staff is aware of the issue an the inspector is working the case.

Officer Paul Kimble, Beat 47, advised that there were 2 drive bys and 1 walk up in the last 2 weeks. He noted that two of the incidents were gang related and the other one is still being determined. **Officer Kimble** advised that Police have seen an increase in gang activity in the city and he has been focused on the increase in activity in the 2300 block of Minnesota, 2400 block of Chataqua and the 2600 block of Piatt (juvenile activity).

Brown-Foster wanted to know if a lot of the problems we are seeing are problems from other areas. **Officer Kimble** advised that yes that is the case.

Brown-Foster wanted to know how Police were gong to address gang issues now that Weed & Seed funding was no longer available. **Officer Kimble** confirmed that the funding is gone and that that funding supported about 1500 man hours. He noted that they are going to have to look at other means of getting more funding or more creative ways to address the issues. **Officer Kimble** also noted that a lot of his focus has changed and he is trying to address the issues in his area.

Brown-Foster wanted to also know what Police were doing to address individuals are playing loud car music. **Officer Kimble** advised that we try to site them as we witness the violation. He noted that if an individual is cited that receive an \$80 citation. **Officer Kimble** advised that they are trying to address the issue but they are running from call to call.

Lawrence wanted to know what age group Officer Kimble was referring to when he discussed the juvenile activity in the 2400 block of Chautauqua. **Officer Kimble** advised

that they were around fifteenth.

The **Board** thanked the Officers for their report.

Action Taken: Received and filed.

New Business

2. Wichita Fire Department – File of Life

Fire Marshal Ed Bricknell, Wichita Fire Department, provided information on the fires that have occurred in the District 1 community. Those fires included the following properties: 1421 N Spruce (misuse of an extension cord); 12th Emporia (trailer fire); 15th Broadway; 17th Belmont (space heater); 10th Lulu (under investigation); 23rd Hillside (arson); and 18th Pennsylvania (lightning strike).

Bricknell advised that 18-months ago he was contacted by Via Christi hospital to partner in initiating a new program called “File of Life.” The intent of the program is to give emergency medical responders medical information that may be important when responding to an emergency in a person’s home.

The “File of Life” kit consists of a red plastic holder with a clear pocket on the front and a large magnet on the back. Inside the pocket is a File of Life sticker for the front door of the home, an instruction sheet and a medication wallet card. The sticker signals emergency responders as they enter the home that there is critical medical information about the homes occupants on the refrigerator. The health information sheet should be filled out by the occupant prior to placing it back in the folder on the refrigerator. These kits are distributed at all of the City fire stations and surrounding medical facilities. Limited supplies will also be available at the Atwater center.

Bricknell also informed the community that when a fire occurs in a neighborhood they go back out and inform the community of the incident, but they also educate them to ensure they are aware of the safety requirements of their home.

Johnette Allen, 1401 N Belmont wanted to know what if you needed to use a dehumidifier in the basement. **Bricknell** advised that it should be plugged at least 3 feet away from the furnace.

Anthony Suber, 1450 N Spruce wanted to know if the community is doing grass roots initiatives to inform the community about fire safety who should he contact to get the Fire of Life kit. **Bricknell** advised that they should contact him at 268-4466 or contact LaShonda at Atwater.

Roberts wanted to know if the Fire Department was available to present at neighborhood meetings. **Bricknell** advised yes they were available 24/7.

CM Williams welcomed Fire Marshall Bricknell to attend the DAB meetings every month providing information regarding the fires that have occurred in District 1. Also to bring forward any educational updates available for the community.

Action Taken: Received and filed.

3. **13th Street Improvements, between I-135 to Oliver**

Gary Janzen/Carl Haas, Public Works, presented information on the 13th Street improvements between I-135 and Oliver. **Janzen** noted that Public Works staff have evaluated the street alignment adjacent to MacDonald Golf Course with the hopes of minimized the possible impact to properties on the north side of 13th Street. It has been determined that shifting the street alignment to the south, acquisition of property on the north side of 13th between Roosevelt and Crestway can likely be avoided if this option is approved.

Janzen noted that this project came before the DAB in October 2007 and the concept was approved. Shortly after in November 2007 the City Council approved the concept, final design and right-of-way funding. **Janzen** noted that the proposed alignment before the Board today would significantly reduce the cost of right-of-way acquisition for this section of the overall project and hopes that the Board will support the proposed alignment.

Janzen noted that they would present this proposal to the Park Board on May 12th with hopes that they can reach an agreement to move this request forward to the City Council. **Janzen** noted that they are trying to do what is most feasible and economical. Additionally, we do not want to displace homeowner if we can avoid it as well. Currently are estimates are about \$800K to \$1M to purchase all the properties to north verses spending about half of that purchasing properties to the south.

Janzen noted that the project will include 4 driving lanes east and west, a center turn lane, curbs, sidewalks, grassed areas, and a new fence at McDonald Golf Course. He also noted that the cost savings to purchasing property to the north would also allow them to make improvements to the golf course including a new fence and the adding of new trees and shrubs.

Janzen noted that it was requested that a bicycle lane be added with this project, but it is the recommendation of Engineering staff that a bicycle lane not be added. The WAMPO plan does not show any additional plans for biking along 13th so adding a bicycle lane in this small section of the project would not be feasible. **Janzen** also noted that a raised median is included in the project to assist with the safety of crossing the street.

Haas then went through the fencing options, showing that there are four options that are being considered, but noting that staff was not for or against any of the options. The three options included: Option 1 – a black chain link fence (\$20K); Option2 – black wrought iron fence (\$50K); Option 3 – wrought iron fence with concrete columns (\$70K) or Option 4 a concrete wall (\$75K).

Haas explained that in addition to the fence they would also replace 17 trees with 75 to 100 trees and additional shrubs which would cost approximately \$40,000. So in total we are looking at \$225K to \$250K in improvements to the golf course verses the \$800K to \$1M we would spend in acquiring properties to the north.

Janzen advised that staff would like a recommendation from the Board on the fence, trees and the recommendation to move forward with the proposed alignment structure to the south.

Thomsen wanted to know if that was the total cost of the fence. **Janzen** responded yes that it may be off a little but they think it is a great estimate.

Robert wanted to know if Roosevelt & 13th was going to be graded down to make it more visible for drivers. **Janzen** advised that there is the intent.

Janet Wilson, 1152 N Estelle wanted to know if any ornamental plantings would occur at the golf course. **Haas** advised that would be dependent upon the Park Board.

John Stevens, Park Board Member advised that he was for the project and feels that the money needs to be put back into the Park. **Stevens** noted that this was a beautiful park and that although he was not speaking on behalf of the Board he supported the project.

Mike Barushok, 354 N Green noted that he is a bicyclist and I think considering a sidewalk on both sides of the street is a great idea. However, is there a possible way to make the sidewalks 8 ft since there will not be a bicycle path. **Janzen** advised that it is a possible option. He noted that staff has not looked at bicycle paths in the street because of the amount of traffic on 13th. He also noted that if we put in a bicycle path we need to put it throughout the entire project and not just this short stretch of the project. Staff recommendation however would be to leave the bicycle path out.

Dr. Glen Dey, 4515 Greenbriar asked if staff could address the storm/sewer issues to the east of the golf course. **Janzen** explained that during the project the issues were get worse. It is in the plans to increase the capacity underground to aide in the water issues. It is the hope that there will be some improvements from the project, but those changes may not be major changes.

Billie Lively, 1401 N Belmont wanted to know if drainage would be put in the appropriate spots to fix the water leveling that exist today near Furniture on Consignment. **Janzen** advised that their intent was to try and improve the drainage by increasing the underground capacity.

Anthony Suber, 1950 N Spruce wanted to know if we could create a bike path instead of putting in all of the trees. **Janzen** explained that the recommendation of staff would be not to include a bike path in this small area.

Dr. Glen Dey, 4515 Greenbriar explained that although the WAMPO plan does not show more connectivity along 13th Street that plan is not the driver of what we do locally. **Dey** noted that the bike paths are recreational activities that addressed fitness needs. He noted that exercise could prevent several diseases and if you don't have areas for exercise people want get out and do it.

Dr. Dey also noted that 19 states have expected the Complete Street models, so how you get people out, how do you beautify the community and increase pride. Also, we need to push for safer routes to school, since we are more concerned about safety. He also asked if anyone new what zip cars were? **Dr. Dey** explained that zip cars are cars that are utilized to take individuals from one zip station to another. An individual can rent the zip car at one location and return it at another. **Dr. Dey** suggested looking at this concept with bikes.

James Roseboro, 4518 Greenbriar wanted to know if any of the trees could be saved. **Janzen** responded maybe one or two of the trees could be saved.

CM Williams wanted to know if the Board approved this project alignment how quickly would the project move forward. **Janzen** advised that they could probably get the fence installed in 2008, if the Park Board agrees with the proposal.

CM Williams followed up with a second question asking if the sidewalks would go from Roosevelt to Crestway. **Janzen** advised that the sidewalks would go through the entire project from Oliver to I-135 on both sides of the street.

CM Williams also wanted to know if mature trees would be planted and if beautification would occur on both sides of the street. **Janzen** advised that they needed to be discussed with the Park Board, and that beautification would occur on both sides of the street.

CM Williams then polled the audience and asked which fence they would prefer to see at the golf course in approved. There was a unanimous vote for the wrought iron fence with concrete columns for \$70K.

Domotrovic (Roberts) motion to approve recommendation of the proposed street alignments to the north of 13th Street at McDonald Golf Course, with the installation of a wrought iron fence with concrete columns. Motion carried. (9:0)

Janzen advised that these projects take a great deal of time and it will probably take until the end of 2008 to get all of the right-of-way issues addressed. **Janzen** noted that he would love to come back before the Board when the final alignment is determined to get everyone a clear picture of how the project will look. **CM Williams** advised Janzen that he was welcome to come back anytime with an update.

Earl Walker, 1402 Fountain wanted to know if any properties to the south would have to be purchased for the creation of sidewalks. **Janzen** advised that they are trying to avoid purchasing any property to the south.

Board Agenda

4. Updates, Issues, and Reports

CM Williams asked the Board if there were any updates to report.

Miles advised that the Kansas African American Museum will have there annual ball of May 31st. Tickets can be purchased from Tythan, Teretha or CM Williams.

Domotrovic advised that he would be attending the Neighbor-to-Neighbor training at the Atwater center on Saturday, May 10, 2008.

Brown-Foster noted that the Center for Health & Wellness will have their barbecue fundraiser at Cowtown on June 14th. Admission is \$10.

Thomsen thanked CM Williams for attending their Neighborhood Association meeting.

Lawrence announced that Uptown Neighborhood Association will have their clean up Saturday, May 31st. June 7th they will have their summer picnic and on June 14th they will have their bi-annual rummage sale.

Rich advised that Hyde Neighborhood Association will have their association meeting Saturday, May 10th at 3 p.m. at the Spice Merchant.

Anthony Suber, 1950 N Spruce advised that A Price Woodard will have their neighborhood association meeting on Thursday, May 8th.

With no further business, **Roberts (Thomsen)** made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried 9-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

LaShonda Porter
Neighborhood Assistant